Job shifts by former Nixon aides probed

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WASHINGTON, May 24 [AP]—Congressional probers are digging for information about persons who switched from jobs with the White House, executive offices, or the President's reelection team to posts with federal agencies.

Various alphabet agencies—from ICC to CPSC, [Interstate Commerce Commission, Consumer Product Safety Commission] are being asked to give written information about such personnel shifts to the House Commerce Committee investigation subcommittee.

The requests stem from concern by some Democratic congressmen about the state of the so-called independent regulatory agencies that Congress created to carry out administrative or judicial-type functions.

REP. HARLEY O. Staggers [D., W. Va.], chairman of the Commerce Committee, and committee members John E. Moss [D., Cal.] and Bob Jockhardt [D., Tex.] recently proposed legislation aimed at providing more independence to such agencies.

Staggers has circulated a letter to a dozen agency chairmen or acting leaders whose operations come under the eye of his committee. Specifically, Staggers is seeking:

- Names of all persons employed by each agency since Oct. 1, 1972, who previously worked for either the White House, Office of Management and Budget, Office of Telecommunications Policy, any other executive office, or the Committee for the Reelection of the President.
- The dates when such persons joined the agency and dates during which they worked for any of the executive offices or the Nixon reelection committee.
- The identity of the employers of these persons before they were hired by White House offices or Presidential reelection committee.
- The grade, position, function and responsibility of each of these people employed by the agency.

STAGGERS ALSO asked for details of how each agency hires lawyers. He also sought the identity of the person who actually decides whether a particular applicant will be hired as an agency attorney.

The letters were sent before The Washington Post reported yesterday that former White House aide Charles W. Colson and two partners made plans to place a lawyer in a key position at the Security and Exchange Commission to help their firm represent clients.

Congressional probers are expected to look into this published report. "It's one thing after another," said a source close to Staggers. "Messing around with the SEC . . . is causing no end of concern."

THE PANEL IS investigating secretly various matters involving SEC, including the commission's actions in International Telephone & Telegraph and Robert L. Vesco cases.

A spokesman for the Committee for the Reelection of the President said he has not put together a list of where his former staffers are working now. "I hope to have it together in a week or two. There are a lot of people I've just lost track of, frankly," he said.